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PLAYBOY
JULY 1974

NO SUCCESS LIKE FAILURE

Opinion BY ROBERT SHERRILL

Now let us praise an infamous man, the pale-eyed William Egan Colby, our number-one spy.

Colby, more than any other celebrated public official, even Richard Nixon, has perfected the alchemy of turning program failures into personal successes.

Every major spy operation that he is known to have been part of has been a disaster. Especially in South Vietnam.

And yet recently he was made director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

It was during the 1959-1962 period, when Colby was the CIA's top man in Saigon, that the spy agency began locking the United States into the Indochina war via a number of ingenious maneuvers, including the assassination of President Diem.

Colby again took up residence in South Vietnam in 1968 (continued on page 180)

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